

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
October 17, 2008

Fred M. Prouty
Director of Programs

TENNESSEE WARS COMMISSION AWARDED DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION FUNDS

Tennessee Historical Commission Executive Director Patrick McIntyre and Fred Prouty, Director of Programs for the Tennessee Wars Commission, were on hand to receive four checks totaling over three million dollars (\$3,019,840.00) from Governor Phil Bredesen in ceremonies at the State Capitol on August 20, 2008. The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) funds transportation related projects through their federally funded Transportation Enhancement Grant Program. The program provides grants to cities, counties, and state organizations to fund activities such as the restoration of historic facilities, bike and pedestrian trails, landscaping, streetscape and other non-traditional transportation projects. The above funds will facilitate preservation and interpretation projects at Fort Donelson Battlefield in Dover, Tennessee, Shiloh National Military Park in Hardin County, Davis Bridge Battlefield in McNairy and Hardemen Counties, and Parker's Crossroads Battlefield in Henderson County.

In 2007 the Tennessee Wars Commission submitted four Transportation Enhancement Grant proposals to save and interpret important Civil War era battlefields in Tennessee. All four proposals were recently selected for funding by Governor Phil Bredesen. Grants for two of the above proposals, totaling 2 million dollars, were submitted in partnership with our friends at the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT), a national non-profit Civil War preservation organization based in Washington, DC. These funds will be used to acquire additional property at both Shiloh and Fort Donelson National Battlefields. Another Enhancement grant request was approved for \$90,708 to Parker's Crossroads Battlefield for construction of an additional 5,800 feet of pedestrian trails and creation of eight new interpretive waysides for a recently acquired 81 acres of core battlefield property. At Davis Bridge Battlefield, \$929,132 will be used to develop a

Welcome and Interpretive Center in the historic Pocahontas Schoolhouse (recently purchased by the Tennessee Wars Commission). These funds will also create 3.5 miles of interpretive pedestrian trails and foot bridge across the Hatchie River allowing visitor access to additional battlefield property.

Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) President Jim Lighthizer recently commented that looking ahead, even at rural Shiloh, “the hallowed ground that you and I are saving today will definitely be the island of green open space in the vast oceans of commercial development and sprawl.”

CONTRACT SIGNED FOR LAND PURCHASE AT AT DAVIS BRIDGE BATTLEFIELD

National, state, and private funds are now in place to purchase 643 acres of endangered battlefield property at Davis Bridge in McNairy County. The battlefield property is one of Tennessee’s 38 most significant and one of few remaining in pristine condition. Due to fair market appraisal regulations and hunting lease obstacles, the State of Tennessee was unable to complete the purchase transaction on its own. Originally the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT), a national non-profit Civil War preservation association of Washington, DC, had agreed to partner with Tennessee in donations of over \$200,000 and the Wars Commission obtained further matching grants from Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund (THCTF) and the National Park Service, American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) totaling \$1,929,000.

After encountering state purchase problems the Tennessee Wars Commission consulted with staff members of the Civil War Preservation Association who were successful in obtaining \$1,929,000 grant from their board members in September 2008. The Civil War Preservation Trust has now entered into a contract with Miller Lumber Company (owners of the battlefield property) to purchase the entire 643-acre tract and will, at closing, “donate” the property to the State of Tennessee. The Tennessee Wars Commission will act as state “pass-through” agency to draw down federal and state matching funds of over \$1,790,000 that will repay a majority of CWPT expenses incurred in purchase of the battlefield property. This brings the total approved grant funding requested by the Tennessee Wars Commission to over \$1,990,000.

With the addition of the above newly acquired property, approximately 98 percent of the original battlefield acreage has now been preserved and contains over 854 acres of “hallowed ground”. The Tennessee Wars and Historical Commission is grateful to our dedicated preservation partners who have helped save over 900 acres of Tennessee Civil War battlefield property in the past two years and have contributed funds exceeding \$2,729,000.00.

TENNESSEE CIVIL WAR TRAIL MEETING

The Tennessee Department of Tourist Development has announced the Tennessee Civil War Trails program has taken root and is spreading across the state. On September

17, 2008, at the Williamson County Courthouse in Franklin, statewide participants celebrated in the unveiling of the first Tennessee Civil War Trails historical marker. Following a brief program, Tennessee tourism Commissioner Susan Whitaker and Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Commissioner Gerald Nicely cut the ribbon on the Franklin “gateway marker” to announce the official opening of the Tennessee Civil War Trails program. Throughout the week, 17 additional markers were installed in Williamson County, Giles County and Sullivan County. In Williamson County alone, 14 markers were installed, including the gateway marker at the courthouse. Additional markers have been erected at locations such as Dr. McPhail’s Office in downtown Franklin, Lotz House, Carnton Plantation and Winstead Hill. In Giles County, you will follow the bugle logo to Lairland Farmhouse in Cornersville, which recently hosted its own dedication ceremony for their marker. Finally, three historic markers were installed in Blountville, at the Masonic Female Institute, Cemetery Hill and the Sullivan County Courthouse.

The Trail program will enable hundreds of thousands of Tennesseans and visitors from around the world to experience and appreciate Tennessee’s rich Civil War heritage. It will also challenge us to continued efforts to preserve our endangered historic Civil War sites for future generations. Commissioner Susan Whitaker stated, “not only is this program about historical education, but this is also a tourism program that will create economic impact in the areas that have these sites.”

The Tennessee Wars Commission and Historical Commission (along with many other state partners) have been working for many years to lay the foundation for a Tennessee Civil War Trail system. Almost 20 years ago, as a much younger archeologist, I began working with staff members of Tennessee Tourism Department to educate Tennesseans as to our states potential Civil War heritage tourism resources. Our goal was to alert the public of many sites that were being destroyed or endangered by development and how we could create partnerships to preserve and interpret them for future generations.

To see the Civil War Trail system come to fruition is very exciting for all of us. With many more historical markers on the way, there will eventually be a trail that extends from Memphis to Blountville containing hundreds of wayside interpretive signs and the creation of regional and statewide driving tour maps. These trail markers and maps will allow citizens of our state to become part of a program that will strengthen Tennessee’s historical significance, as well as draw visitors from around the world. The Tennessee Civil War Trail will link sister states North Carolina and Virginia into a continuous heritage tourism trail system.

SESSQUICENTENNIAL COMMISSION MEETS

Governor Phil Bredesen’s Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission met October 1, 2008 to discuss plans for implementing the Tennessee Civil War Trails system and also reviewed directions for other activities in connection with Tennessee’s Civil War Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary) in 2010. As a result of the meeting,

committees were formed to develop and implement proposals for the preservation, events and activities, and education associated with the Sesquicentennial.

Mr. Norm Hill (Chairperson of the Tennessee Historical Commission) was selected chair of the Preservation Committee and held a conference call to formulate a course of action, the results of which were discussed at the October Sesquicentennial meeting. Mr. Hill reported that, the traditional approach to Civil War history is centered on generals, battlefields and tactics. The committee proposed to bring Tennesseans and the general public face to face with the daily life of families that lived through the War Between the States. In order to do that Mr. Hill explained, "Our goal will be to recognize and preserve the legacies that brought the war home to Tennesseans and laid it on their doorsteps, much like the photos of Matthew Brady."

The Preservation Committee report recommended the Commission should involve Tennesseans and visitors to our state sites, by educating and interpreting the day to day activities of individuals, both military and civilian, who experienced the war and not exclusively the study of battles and military actions that occurred during the war years. It was suggested that we preserve the stories, objects, and places that reveal a more inclusive and comprehensive understanding of the war and the stories of all Tennesseans and their communities, whose lives were shaped by, or shaped the outcome of the war during this nation building event.

TENNESSEE CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL LICENSE PLATE TO HELP LAUNCH 150TH COMMEMORATION

The Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association (TCWPA) continues to press forward with their sales campaign for the proposed Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial License Plate. TCWPA is seeking help from community preservationists, Civil War Roundtables and reenactors, tourism directors, and those of you who have already purchased a plate and are leading the way. TCWPA has had outstanding cooperation from many organizations including the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT). The Trust's President Jim Lighthizer, recently urged Tennessee CWPT members to join this effort. Many individuals and organizations have helped promote the license plate through their newsletters, announcements, and personal contacts.

TCWPA President Steve McDaniel announced recent legislation extending the "preorder" time for the Civil War Sesquicentennial License Plate, "We are pleased to have this additional time to get 1000 preorders, necessary to get our State's Sesquicentennial license plate displayed on vehicles and visible across the nation. We're 1/3 of the way there and with your help, Tennessee will proudly display our commitment in Tennessee's Civil War history and preservation of its hallowed grounds. We need our members' help and ask you to join us in launching this important remembrance of our history."

Proceeds from Sesquicentennial License Plate will help save Tennessee's endangered Civil War battlefields. For more information contact TCWPA at: tcwpacontact@aol.com or visit their web site, www.tcwpa.org.

AT&T FOUNDATION SUPPORTS BATTLEFIELD ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

With great appreciation, the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association (TCWPA) recognizes the AT&T Foundation, which gave TCWPA \$10,000 to extend the Tennessee Battlefield Assessment Program (TBAP). With this generous grant, TCWPA staff member Rob Hartman will continue his services in managing the Assessment Program as it continues to assess and record nearly 1,500 battle sites across Tennessee. The program is available online at www.tcwpa.org.

BATTLE OF JOHNSONVILLE INTERPRETIVE FILM UNDERWAY

On October 9, 2008 production began on a new educational documentary film focusing on the Civil War Battle of Johnsonville (November 4, 1864), and will be used in the Johnsonville State Historic Area Welcome and Interpretive Center to be built near the battlefield park in Humphrys County. Through a grant from the Tennessee Wars Commission the County Chamber of Commerce has obtained the services of the Dickson based Renaissance Center Multi-Media department who have produced several award winning educational films for Tennessee Civil War projects. The video will be a compilation of interviews, historical documents and illustrations, underwater archaeological reports, archival photos, and hosted by a narrator. Designed for both the Civil War buff and the novice, the Johnsonville video will profile the beginning stages of the war, prelude to the battle, the aftermath and reconstruction era, and will detail the battle itself.

In July of 2000 the Tennessee Wars Commission submitted a proposal to the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) requesting grant funding for creation of a Historic Johnsonville Welcome and Interpretive Center. Not having received funding on the first proposal, the application was resubmitted over subsequent years until its approval. In 2006, Governor Phil Bredesen provided Tennessee State Parks with an enhancement grant in the amount of \$1,165,000 to assist in the construction of a new Welcome Center. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation matched federal funds with over \$400,000. The Welcome Center will feature public use facilities, interpretive displays featuring themes such as; Civil War naval activities on Tennessee waterways, the significant role played by Tennessee military railroads during the war, the legacy of the Tennessee's United State Colored Troops (USCT) who built and guarded the railroad from Johnsonville to Nashville, and will detail the Confederate cavalry campaign that successfully destroyed an estimated two to six million dollars in federal materials at Johnsonville.

The Tennessee Wars Commission previously funded (with federal matching grants) four seasons of extensive underwater archaeological investigations at Johnsonville resulting in the location and survey of several Civil War naval shipwrecks. Funds have now been made available for another underwater investigation that will hopefully locate, raise, and conserve military artifacts that prove beneficial for the interpretation of the Johnsonville Civil War military action. With the approval of the United States Naval Historical Center (primary caretakers of all US military ship

wrecks), artifacts from these significant underwater military resources will someday be conserved and exhibited for the public view.

Johnsonville State Historic Park is located in Humphreys County, on the eastern shore of Tennessee River, approximately two miles north of State Route 70 at New Johnsonville.

TENNESSEE'S CIVIL WAR TRAIL BROCHURE UPDATED

The Wars Commission has reviewed and approved a final draft copy of the new Tennessee Civil War Trail Brochure, "*A Path Divided, Tennessee's Civil War Heritage Trail*" and has given the go ahead for printing. The cover will feature Civil War artwork by renowned Tennessee artist David Wright from Gallatin, Tennessee. Over 125,000 brochures will be sent to all Tennessee Welcome Centers for the 2008 fall distribution. *A Path Divided* is still the most requested state brochure at our eleven Welcome Centers.

STATE LAND ACQUISITION FUNDS DIVERTED

As Director of Programs for the Tennessee Wars Commission I feel it necessary to restate a previous newsletter article about the loss of critical preservation funds from state resources. Lawmakers have diverted millions of dollars in land conservation funds to the state general fund to help close a shortfall in the Tennessee's state budget. The \$15 million hole in the spending plan was created after lawmakers rejected an administration plan to end a tax exemption on certain family-owned businesses. Legislative leaders in both chambers plan to replace that money with funds from the real estate transfer tax. The real estate transfer money is currently used for state land acquisition and soil conservation easements. Lawmakers raided the fund in previous tough budgeted times, and Governor Phil Bredesen's original budget plan for FY 2008-2009 had envisioned restoring the fund its full \$30 million level. The Governor's plan was developed before the extent of Tennessee's budget crunch became clear earlier this month, and has now been abandoned.

The Tennessee Wars Commission has, in the past, obtained its funding for endangered Tennessee Civil War battlefields through the Tennessee State Lands Acquisition Fund (TLAF) program, and the Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund (THCTF). The recent loss of both of these state resources, as potential means for future land acquisition, is a devastating blow to the Wars Commission in our efforts to preserve historic Tennessee battlefields. We are now challenged to locate and cultivate new funding sources and partnerships in the coming years.

The National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) has been one of Tennessee's greatest partners in battlefield preservation, contributing millions of matching dollars through its funding program. It is hoped that the Tennessee Wars Commission will be able to partner with other preservation organizations in our efforts to obtain matching funds for ABPP grants. Non-profit organizations such as the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) and Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association

(TCWPA) continue to support the Wars Commission and have assisted in the preservation of hundreds of acres of endangered battlefield sites in our state. We are hopeful Tennessee will soon be able to again secure land acquisition funding dollars for continued preservation of our state's endangered battlefields and related sites.

TENNESSEE CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION GRANT

The Wars Commission has approved a grant to the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association (TCWPA) that funds professional services for the non-profit organization from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. The grant will maintain the TCWPA's current preservation, administrative, and educational programs and will also fund, in part, the Tennessee Battlefield Assessment Program (TBAP) website, administration, and publications. These services include but are not limited to executive director services, technical/financial services, the "Battlefield Assessment program" technical support and publications about TCWPA and battlefield preservation in Tennessee. The Wars Commission is honored to continue in our partnership with the board and membership of the TCWPA in the preservation of Tennessee's endangered battlefields.

FORT LOUDOUN PUBLICATION BECOMES A REALITY

A Wars Commission grant has been awarded to the Alexander Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (AAC) to complete the archeological publication of the report by Dr. Carl Kuttruff entitled, *Fort Loudoun in Tennessee, 1756-1760: History Archaeology, Replication, Exhibits, and Interpretation*. The publication of the archeological excavations (in Loudon County, Tennessee) by the Tennessee Division of Archaeology (TDOA) was conducted under supervision of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in the early 1970s. The final report is the culmination of more than 30 years of work on this historically significant site and records the history of the French and Indian War in East Tennessee. The grant will pay for the editing, layout, publishing, and distribution of the final report in book form and digital CD format.

The Tennessee Wars Commission is pleased to have been the catalyst and funding source for the conclusion of this important Tennessee historic archeological report.

NEW TRAIL SYSTEM FOR JOHNSONVILLE HISTORIC AREA

In recent talks with members of Tennessee State Parks planning staff, Wars Commission director of programs offered the services of the Wars Commission's personal service contractor in creating an interpretive plan for Johnsonville Historic Area. The plan will develop ten to fifteen new trail signs and interpretive waysides detailing the Civil War military aspects of Johnsonville State Historic Area. These signs and waysides will highlight multiple aspects of the park and interpret the military battle that took place there in November of 1864. Interpretation will also incorporate history of the old town of

Johnsonville and the construction of the wartime railroad (Nashville and Northwestern) that played a crucial role in supplying.

New wayside interpretive signs have now been written and are being reviewed by Tennessee State Parks officials in preparation for construction of a new pedestrian trail system in the park. All of the waysides have been developed to compliment and enhance the interpretation at the recently funded Johnsonville Welcome & Visitor Center now in design stages.

Johnsonville State Historic Area has been virtually overlooked by the heritage tourism community, and will soon become one of Tennessee's significant Civil War site destinations. The Wars Commission looks forward to our continuing partnership with Tennessee State Parks in efforts to bring the Johnsonville story to the attention of Tennesseans and the nation at large.

SPRING HILL BATTLEFIELD NAMED TO ENDANGERED LIST

The Civil War Preservation Trust, a Washington, D.C., nonprofit, again named Spring Hill's battlefield to its annual list of sites facing the greatest threat of being lost to development. The Spring Hill site has been named to the list every year since 2005.

Wars Director Prouty and Executive Director Dan Brown of the Tennessee Preservation Trust recently met with officials of H.C.A. Hospitals in talks to discuss the possibilities of preserving battlefield viewshed and green space near the proposed HCA Spring Hill hospital site, located just to the east of core battlefield property. Other interested participants and consultants were Thomas Cartwright and David Fraley of the Carter House Civil War Museum, and Commissioner and Alderman Jonathan Duda of Spring Hill. HCA officials were eager to discuss the battlefields sensitive viewshed concerns and talks are ongoing.

FORT DONELSON BATTLEFIELD PROPERTY PURCHASED

The Tennessee Wars Commission continues in its partnership with the non-profit organization, Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT), in efforts to protect endangered battlefield property at Fort Donelson in Dover, Tennessee. The Wars Commission has agreed to hold conservation easements on land acquired through efforts of the CWPT and the National Park Service, American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP). Wars Commission Director Fred Prouty recently obtained battlefield property easements through the State Lands Acquisition Committee and has now been approved by the State Building Commission. The State has now obtained an option to acquire interests in 62.14 acres of endangered core battlefield land on the Fort Donelson Battlefield in Dover, Tennessee making the hallowed ground an official state conservation easement. The newly acquired battlefield land will eventually become the property of the National Park Service Fort Donelson Battlefield.

The Civil War Preservation Trust of Washington, DC has partnered with the Tennessee Wars Commission in many joint efforts to preserve endangered battlefield property in Tennessee and we greatly appreciate their continued support.

TENNESSEE CIVIL WAR DOCUMENTARY SOURCEBOOK

The *Tennessee Civil War Documentary Sourcebook*, completed by Dr. Jim Jones, Public Historian for the Tennessee Historical Commission, can be viewed on the Tennessee Historical Commission web site at: <http://tennessee.civilwarsourcebook.com>.

The *Sourcebook*, funded by the Tennessee Wars Commission and a matching grant from the American Battlefield Preservation Program (ABPP), is a (word searchable) web site based on extensive Tennessee Civil War archival research compiled by Dr. Jones of the Tennessee Historical Commission. The creation of the above web site has become extremely beneficial for research of Tennessee military and civilian activities during the Civil War era. Dr. Jones has recorded over 2,931 military actions on Tennessee soil increasing a previously published total (by Frederick Dyer in 1908) by 1,531 engagements. In the near future the Tennessee Wars Commission plans to duplicate and deliver the "Sourcebook" (in CD-ROM format) to over 1,000 Tennessee school libraries.

In the last two years the *Tennessee Civil War Sourcebook* has had thousands of "visitors" from Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Texas, Maine, Massachusetts, California, Washington, New York, and many others. Foreign countries visiting the site included Brazil, Denmark, Norway, the United Kingdom and Ireland.

TENNESSEE WARS COMMISSION OBTAINS ADDITIONAL FUNDING

In early 2008 the Tennessee Wars Commission sought approval from the Tennessee House and Senate budget hearing committee for a one-time improvement request for non-recurring Tennessee Wars Commission funds of \$150,000. The funding request has been approved and will increase the capacity of the Tennessee Wars Commission to implement its mission of preserving, interpreting, and promoting battlefields, earthen field fortifications, buildings, and related sites in Tennessee. These historic resources are related to the French and Indian Wars (1754-1763); the American Revolutionary War (1776-1783); the Mexican/US War (1846-1848); and the War Between the States (1861-1865), as mandated by legislation creating the Tennessee Wars Commission.

With the assistance from state and local officials and the broad base support of several non-profit preservation organizations, the Tennessee Wars Commission has successfully obtained its request for a one-time improvement item of additional non-recurring funds for fiscal year 2009. The additional \$150,000 funding request is an amendment to #2 (HA1672) of the appropriations bill (HB 4219) and was adopted by the House and agreed upon by the Senate. The increased Tennessee Wars Commission budget became law with the passing of the state's FY 2009 budget in May 2008.

The addition of a one-time funding increase of \$150,000 coupled with the yearly recurring Wars budget of \$149,700 gives the Commission a total of \$299,700 for fiscal year 2009. These additional funds will help to accommodate the current growth and proposed needs connected with the FY 2009 activities of the Wars Commission.

The Tennessee Wars Commission has accomplished a great deal in the past 14 years. By creating local, state, and national preservation partnerships, the Wars Commission has assisted in obtaining millions of dollars for the preservation and interpretation of our state's endangered battlefields. To date the Wars Commission has secured over three thousand acres of endangered historic Tennessee Civil War battlefield property. These new historic site destinations are increasing Tennessee's heritage tourism, bringing millions of dollars into our state each year and most importantly are preserving "Hollowed Grounds".

PARTING SHOTS

As a youth I greatly enjoyed Boy Scouting and through a lot of hard work and much support from my parents and Scout leaders, obtained the rank of Eagle. As an older Explorer Scout one of the personal goals incorporated in our Scout Pledge challenged us to, **"Treasure my American heritage and do all I can to preserve and enrich it."** Now, forty-seven years later, I have the opportunity to "live that pledge" every day in a job that allows me to use my deep interest and love of history in a productive way. To have a job that is the culmination of one's passion is reward in itself and I look forward to the daily challenges connected with the preservation and interpretation of Tennessee's history and the desire to save our endangered Civil War resources.

The real heroes of successful preservation in Tennessee are the "troops" on the front lines, those individuals and organizations that work tirelessly to help preserve our state's historic resources. It is a privilege working with such dedicated Tennesseans who give great honor to the name "volunteer state."

Fred M. Prouty
Director of Programs
Tennessee Wars Commission
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, TN 37214
615-532-1550, ex. 104
Fred.Prouty@state.tn.us
<http://www.tdec.net/hist/TnWarsCom.shtml>